

From: Barnard, Bob (DFW)
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 7:37 AM
To: regionalroadsaforum@hotmail.com
Cc: SEPADesk (DFW)
Subject: Response to Comment on SEPA No. 13005

Dear Forum members, thank you for reviewing SEPA for WDFW's Water Crossing Design Guidelines, 2013. WDFW has carefully considered your comments and we offer the following response.

We understand that the Forum requests an EIS to evaluate the cost and design impacts to the "built environment." WDFW has considered whether the guidelines would have probable significant adverse impacts on the natural and built environment, and has decided that a Determination of Non-Significance is the appropriate review document for these guidelines. In addition, SEPA does not require the preparation of an EIS for consideration of potential economic costs.

We know that a county must balance a myriad of considerations when running a transportation system. This includes the protection fishlife, long established in state laws and rules. It is possible that cost and design considerations suggested in the guidelines could reduce the frequency of crossing maintenance and replacement, but the Water Crossing Design Guidelines do not require that you use these recommendations. The guidelines were written to help you comply with existing law. We state frequently that alternatives are acceptable, providing the proposed plan adequately protects fishlife.

SEPA Question 6 is trying to determine the increase in the demands for transportation (new roads) and public services (schools, water supply or sewer capacity) caused by a project. The design of water crossings for fish passage cannot affect this demand since we specifically say that the civil engineering portions of the design are **not** covered in the document. The WCDG simply concerns the protection of fishlife; we do not recommend how many road lanes to build, or how large the housing development on the other side of the stream can be – these are under the jurisdiction of other local, state and federal agencies.

Thank you for your interest in the Water Crossing Design Guidelines and the SEPA review process. We hope that our comments above adequately address you concerns.

Sincerely,

Bob

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